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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,435	02/10/2004	Hiroyuki Kunugi	016907-1598	1715
22428	7590	08/09/2005	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			TRAN, HOAN H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2852	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/774,435

Applicant(s)

KUNUGI, HIROYUKI

Examiner

Hoan H. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/10/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Claim 4, line 3, "iN" is unclear.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuyama et al. ['901] in view of Kudo ['662]

Katsuyama et al. disclose an image forming apparatus [Fig. 2] comprising a main unit [5] having an image forming section configured to form an image on a sheet of paper, an image reading section [4] located above the main unit [Col. 3, line 22-23], an ejection space [6] defined between the bottom of the image reading section and the image forming section, said ejection space having an opening at a front of the main unit [Fig. 5], an ejection tray cover [35] defined a

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bottom of the ejection space and configured to receive a paper sheet ejected from the image forming section, said ejection tray cover covering the image forming section [Fig. 1], and a control panel unit [16] attached to the front side of the image reading section [Col. 3, lines 17-35]. However, Katsuyama et al. does not disclose the control panel unit is attached by a hinge having a predetermined rotational resistance and the control panel unit being rotatable through a predetermined angle with respect to an imaginary horizontal plane.

Kudo discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a control panel unit [16] attached to a universal joint [8] so that the control panel unit can turn in the vertical or horizontal direction [Col. 5, lines 24-34].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the control panel unit disclosed by Katsuyama et al. attached to a universal joint so that the control panel unit can turn in the vertical or horizontal direction as taught by Kudo for the purpose of providing an image forming apparatus including an independent control panel unit which is easily accessible by an operator.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

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disclosure:

- Kaiho ['917] discloses an image forming apparatus having an air opening in a paper discharge area..
- Sato ['011] discloses an image forming apparatus having a reverse discharging portion.
- Yamada et al. [JP 2004-246376] disclose an image forming apparatus having a discharge tray.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2141. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Arthur Grimley can be reached at (571) 272-2136. The central office fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hoan Tran', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**HOAN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

HHT
August 07, 2005